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Attorney for Plaintiff

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MIGUEL LIMA,

Case No. SACV11 - 0985 JST (MLGx)

Plaintiff,

OF FEDERAL FAIR DEBT

VS.

COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

AND ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT

COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

Defendant.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for damages brought by an individual consumer for Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692, et seq. (hereinafter "FDCPA"), and the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Cal Civ Code §1788, et seq. (hereinafter "RFDCPA"), both of which prohibit debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices.

## II. JURISDICTION

2. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. §1692k (d).

### III. PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff, Miguel Lima ("Plaintiff"), is a natural person residing in Orange county in the state of California, and is a "consumer" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3) and is a "debtor" as defined by Cal Civ Code §1788.2(h).
- 4. At all relevant times herein, Defendant, Asset Acceptance, LLC, ("Defendant") was a company engaged, by use of the mails and telephone, in the business of collecting a debt from Plaintiff which qualifies as a "debt," as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(5), and a "consumer debt," as defined by Cal Civ Code §1788.2(f). Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another, and therefore is a "debt collector" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6), and RFDCPA, Cal Civ Code §1788.2(c).

#### IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 5. At various and multiple times prior to the filing of the instant complaint, including within the one year preceding the filing of this complaint, Defendant contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect an alleged outstanding debt.
- 6. On or about December, 2010, Defendant began calling Plaintiff in attempt to collect an alleged debt.

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- 7. Defendant called Plaintiff continuously and repeatedly, often leaving voicemails from an automated voice identified as "Kristy Wright."
- 8. On at least one occasion, Defendant told Plaintiff to borrow money from his family to pay the debt, or he would be sued. To the best of Plaintiff's knowledge, Defendant has not sued Plaintiff to date.
- 9. Plaintiff told Defendant to stop calling him, but Defendant continued to call.
- 10. Plaintiff's counsel sent a letter to Defendant on April 12, 2011 to request verification of the alleged debt. When Defendant failed to respond, a second letter was sent on April 29, 2011. No verification has been provided at this time.
- 11. Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA and the RFDCPA in multiple ways, including but not limited to:
  - a) Falsely representing or implying that nonpayment of Plaintiff's debt would result in the seizure, garnishment, attachment, or sale of Plaintiff's property or wages, where such action is not lawful or Defendant did not intend to take such action, including, but not limited to, threatening Plaintiff with a lawsuit if the debt is not paid (§1692e(4));
  - b) Threatening to take an action against Plaintiff that cannot be legally taken or that was not actually intended to be taken, including, but not limited to, threatening Plaintiff with a lawsuit if the debt is not paid (§1692e(5));

c) Using unfair or unconscionable means against Plaintiff in connection with an attempt to collect a debt, including, but not limited to, threatening Plaintiff with a lawsuit if the debt is not paid (§1692f));

- d) Engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse Plaintiff, including, but not limited to, threatening Plaintiff with a lawsuit if the debt is not paid and continuing to call Plaintiff after he requested Defendant stop (§1692d));
- e) Threatening Plaintiff that nonpayment of Plaintiff's debt may result in the arrest of Plaintiff or the seizure, garnishment, attachment or sale of any property or the garnishment or attachment of wages of Plaintiff, where such action was not in fact contemplated by the debt collector and permitted by the law, including, but not limited to, threatening Plaintiff with a lawsuit if the debt is not paid (Cal Civ Code §1788.10(e));
- f) Threatening to take an action against Plaintiff that is prohibited by §1788 of the California Civil Code, including, but not limited to, threatening Plaintiff with a lawsuit if the debt is not paid (Cal Civ Code §1788.10(f));
- g) Falsely representing that a legal proceeding has been, is about to be, or will be instituted unless payment of a consumer debt is made, including, but not limited to, threatening Plaintiff with a lawsuit if the debt is not paid (Cal Civ Code §1788.13(j));
- h) Causing a telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously to annoy Plaintiff, including, but not limited to, calling with an automated voice repeatedly (Cal Civ Code §1788.11(d));
- i) Communicating, by telephone or in person, with Plaintiff with such frequency as to be unreasonable and to constitute an harassment to Plaintiff under the

circumstances, including, but not limited to, continuing to call Plaintiff after he requested Defendant stop calling (Cal Civ Code §1788.11(e));

- j) Causing Plaintiffs telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously with intent to harass, annoy or abuse Plaintiff, including, but not limited to, continuing to call Plaintiff after he requested Defendant stop calling (§1692d(5)); and
- k) Communicating with Plaintiff at times or places which were known or should have been known to be inconvenient for Plaintiff, including, but not limited to, continuing to call Plaintiff after he requested Defendant stop calling (§1692c(a)(1)).
- 12. As a result of the above violations of the FDCPA and RFDCPA Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer injury to Plaintiff's feelings, personal humiliation, embarrassment, mental anguish and emotional distress, and Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for Plaintiff's actual damages, statutory damages, and costs and attorney's fees.

## COUNT I: VIOLATION OF FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

13. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against the Defendant for the following:

A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct

violated the FDCPA;

- B. Actual damages;
- C. Statutory damages;
- D. Costs and reasonable attorney's fees; and,
- E. For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

# COUNT II: VIOLATION OF ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 14. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.
- 15. Further, §1788.17 of the RFDCPA mandates that every debt collector collecting or attempting to collect a consumer debt shall comply with the provisions of Sections 1692b to 1692j, inclusive, of, and shall be subject to the remedies in Section 1692k of, Title 15 of the United States Code statutory regulations contained within the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692d, and §1692d(5).
- 16. To the extent that Defendant's actions, counted above, violated the RFDCPA, those actions were done knowingly and willfully.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against the Defendant for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the RFDCPA;
- B. Actual damages;
- C. Statutory damages for willful and negligent violations;

- D. Costs and reasonable attorney's fees,
- E. For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

## PLAINTIFF HEREBY REQUESTS A TRIAL BY JURY

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of June, 20/11

By:

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Attorney for Plaintiff

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

#### NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Josephine Tucker and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Marc Goldman.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

SACV11- 985 JST (MLGx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge

#### NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

Western Division 312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8 Los Angeles, CA 90012	[X] Southern Division 411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053 Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516	Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 1 Riverside, CA 92501
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34

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

Case 8:11-cv-00985-JLS-MLG Document 1	Filed 07/01/11 Page 9 of 11 Page ID #:19
Todd M. Friedman, Esq. Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman, P.C. 369 S. Doheny Dr., #415 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Phone: 877-206-4741 Fax: 866-633-0228	
	DISTRICT COURT T OF CALIFORNIA
MIGUEL LIMA,  PLAINTIFF(S)  V.	CASE NUMBER  SACV11 - 0985 JST (MLGx)
ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC,	
DEFENDANT(S).	SUMMONS
Within 21 days after service of this summor must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached ☑ counterclaim ☐ cross-claim or a motion under Rule 1 or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, To Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman, 369 S. Doheny Dr., judgment by default will be entered against you for the ryour answer or motion with the court.	2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer dd M. Friedman , whose address is #415, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 . If you fail to do so,
Dated:	Clerk, U.S. District Court  Diagram  DODJIE LAGMAN  By:  Deputy Clerk  (Seal of the Court)
[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].	s agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed
CV-01A (12/07) SUMM	IONS

## Case 8:11-cv-00985-JLS-MLG Document 1 Filed 07/01/11 Page 10 of 11 Page ID #:20

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself □) MIGUEL LIMA				DEFEND. ASSET	ANTS `ACCEPTANCE,	LLC			A
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.)			representing	Attorneys (If Known)					
Todd M. Friedman, Esq. 1 369 S. Doheny Dr., #415,	aw Offices of Todd M. Friedmar Beverly Hills, CA 9021	, P.C.							
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION	N (Place an X in one box only.)				RINCIPAL PAR		For Diversity Case efendant,)	s Only	
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	Case Number:	CV1	1 - 0985 J	ST (N	MLGx)				
	OMPLETING THE FRONT SI	DE OF	FORM CV-71, C	COMPLE	TE THE INFOR	MATIO	n requested i	BELOW.	

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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(n), IDENTICAL CASES: If yes, list case number(s):	Has this action been p	reviously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed? 🗹 No 🗆 Yes			
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: If yes, list case number(s):	Have any cases been p	eviously filed in this court that are related to the present case? 🗹 No 🗆 Yes			
	A. Arise from the san B. Call for determinat C. For other reasons v	se and the present case; ie or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or ion of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or atent, trademark or copyright, <u>and</u> one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.			
	·	tion, use an additional sheet if necessary.)			
		outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides, oyees is a named plaintiff. If this box is checked, go to item (b).			
County in this District;*  Orange		California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country			
		outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides.			
County in this District;*		California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country			
		Michigan			
		outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose.			
County in this District:*	<u> </u>	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country			
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* Los Angeles, Orange, San Ber Note: In land condemnation cases		entura, Santa Barbara, of San Luis Obispo Countics			
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNE	Y (OR PRO PER):	Date June 28, 2011			
or other papers as required by	law. This form, appro	ivil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings wed by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)			
Key to Statistical codes relating to	Social Security Cases				
Nature of Suit Co	de Ahbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action			
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))			
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)			
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))			
863	DIWM	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))			
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended,			
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))			

CIVIL COVER SHEET

Page 2 of 2

CV-71 (05/08)